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#3/1009
9/27/01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hisaki MIYAMOTO et al.

Group Art Unit: 1733

Appln No : 09/887,082

Examiner:

Filed : June 25, 2001

For : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANUFACTURE OF LAMINATED
OPTICAL DISC

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby call the following documents to the Examiner's attention, which were previously cited in parent application no. 09/147,140:

In an Office Action dated September 12, 2000 in the above-noted parent application, the Examiner cited the following documents:

U.S. Patent No. 6,106,657, to ROSSIGNAL et al., issued on August 20, 2000;

U.S. Patent No. 6,080,249, to HONMA et al., issued on June 27, 2000;

U.S. Patent No. 5,951,806, to AMO et al., issued on September 14, 1999;

U.S. Patent No. 5,938,891, to KASHIWAGI et al., issued on August 17, 1999;

U.S. Patent No. 5,882,451, to SASAKI et al., issued on March 16, 1999;

U.S. Patent No. 5,843,257, to INOVCHI et al., issued on December 1, 1998;

U.S. Patent No. 5,800,670, to KITANO, issued on September 1, 1998;

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U.S. Patent No. 5,779,855, to AMO et al., issued on July 14, 1998;

U.S. Patent No. 5,759,332, to ITOIGAWA et al., issued on June 2, 1998;

U.S. Patent No. 5,744,193, to KITANO, issued on April 28, 1998;

U.S. Patent No. 5,501,760, to MUKAWA, issued on March 26, 1996;

U.S. Patent No. 4,877,475, to UCHITA et al., issued on October 31, 1989; and

U.S. Patent No. 4,420,510, to KUNKEL et al., issued on December 13, 1983.

In an Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 19, 1999 in the same parent application, the following documents were cited:

Japanese Laid-Open Publication No. 5-20713, to YOSHINORI, published January 29, 1993, together with an English language abstract thereof;

Japanese Laid-Open Publication No. 63-239628, to NOBUHIKO, published October 5, 1988, together with an English language abstract thereof;

Japanese Laid-Open Publication No. 2-37543, to FUMINORI et al., published February 7, 1990, together with an English language abstract thereof;

Japanese Laid-Open Publication No. 4-139630, to MASARU et al., published May 13, 1992, together with an English language abstract thereof;

Japanese Laid-Open Publication No. 61-292242, to MITSURU et al., published December 23, 1986, together with an English language abstract thereof; and

Japanese Laid-Open Publication No. 63-124248, to TORU et al., published May 27, 1988, together with an English language abstract thereof.

In an Information Disclosure Statement filed on October 26, 1999 in the same parent

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application, the following documents were cited:

A European Search Report mailed on September 23, 1999 in counterpart European Application EP 97 91 7432 is enclosed, in which the following documents were cited:

Japanese Laid Open Patent No. JP 08 036786 A, which was published on February 6, 1996, along with an English language Abstract (Patent Abstract of Japan, Vol. 96, No. 006, June 28, 1996), was cited as a X-Category document with respect to claim 26 and an A-Category document (i.e. a document particularly relevant if taken alone, and a document of technological background, respectively) with respect to claims 1, 14, 25, and 28 of the European application. The Examiner indicated that the Abstract is relevant;

Japanese Laid Open Patent No. JP 07 28 2474 A, which was published on October 27, 1995, along with an English language Abstract (Patent Abstracts of Japan Vol. 96, No. 002, February 29, 1996), was cited as an A-Category document with respect to claims 1, 14, 25, 26, and 28 of the European application. The Examiner indicated that the Abstract is relevant;

European Patent Application No. EP 0 706 178 A2, which was published on April 10, 1996, was cited as an A-Category document with respect to claims 1, 3, 6, 12, 14, 17, 23, 25, 26, and 28 of the European Application. The Examiner indicated that the entire document is relevant;

U.S. Patent No. 4,814,198, which issued on March 21, 1989, was cited as an A-Category document with respect to claims 1 and 14 of the European Application. The Examiner indicated that the entire document is relevant;

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European Patent Application No. EP 0 408 763 A, which was published on January 23, 1991, was cited as an A-Category document with respect to claim 27 of the European Application. The Examiner indicated that the entire document is relevant; and

European Patent Application No. EP 0 744 739 A, which was published on November 27, 1996, was cited as a P-Category document (i.e. an intermediate document) and a X-Category document with respect to claim 26 of the European Application. The Examiner indicated that the entire document is relevant.

In an Information Disclosure Statement filed on May 31, 2001 in the same parent application, the following documents were cited:

A European Search Report mailed on May 22, 2001 in counterpart European Application EP 01 10 1733 is enclosed, in which the following documents were cited:

Japanese Laid Open Patent No. JP 08 036786 A, which was published on February 6, 1996, along with an English language Abstract (Patent Abstract of Japan, Vol. 96, No. 006, June 28, 1996), was cited as an X-Category document (i.e., a document particularly relevant if taken alone) with respect to claim 2 and an A-Category document (i.e. a document related to the technological background) with respect to claims 1 and 4 of the European application. The Examiner indicated that the Abstract is relevant;

Japanese Laid Open Patent No. JP 62 12940 A, which was published on January 21, 1987, along with an English language Abstract (Patent Abstracts of Japan Vol. 11, No. 186, June 16, 1987), was cited as an X-Category document with respect to claim 2 of the European application. The Examiner indicated that the Abstract is relevant;

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Japanese Laid Open Patent No. JP 07 28 2474 A, which was published on October 27, 1995, along with an English language Abstract (Patent Abstracts of Japan Vol. 96, No. 002, February 29, 1996), was cited as an A-Category document with respect to claims 1, 2 and 4 of the European application. The Examiner indicated that the Abstract is relevant;

European Patent Application No. EP 0 706 178 A2, which was published on April 10, 1996, was cited as an A-Category document with respect to claims 1, 2 and 4 of the European Application. The Examiner indicated that the entire document is relevant;

Japanese Laid Open Patent No. 03 166279 A, which was published on July 18, 1991 along with the English-language abstract XP-002164901, DATABASE WPI, Section Ch, Week 199135, Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class A21, AN 1991-256235, was cited as an A-Category document with respect to claim 1 of the European application. The Examiner indicated that the Abstract is relevant;

Japanese Laid Open Patent No. 06 215419 A, which was published on August 5, 1994, along with an English language Abstract (Patent Abstracts of Japan Vol. 18, No. 587, November 10, 1994), was cited as an A-Category document with respect to claim 4 of the European application. The Examiner indicated that the Abstract is relevant;

European Patent Application No. EP 0 408 763 A, which was published on January 23, 1991, was cited as an A-Category document with respect to claim 3 of the European Application. The Examiner indicated that the entire document is relevant; and

European Patent Application No. EP 0 744 739 A, which was published on November 27, 1996, was cited as a P-Category document (i.e. an intermediate document) and an

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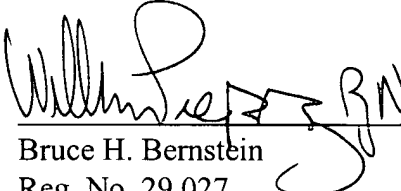
X-Category document with respect to claim 2 of the European Application. The Examiner indicated that the entire document is relevant.

Applicants note that the above-noted documents were either supplied by the Examiner or submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement in the above-noted parent application, and thus, copies of the same are not provided herewith.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above materials and cite the patent documents. The above-noted documents have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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September 25, 2001
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